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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1966

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: W. N. TEASDALE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1967.

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Shaftesbury Borough Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report
for the year 1966.

The report is prepared and will be circulated
in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health
Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under
consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably
with those for the Country as a whole.

There was no increased incidence of notifiable
disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Teasdale, your Public
Health Inspector, for his co-operation and help during
the year, and for his assistance in preparing this
report, and to Miss J. Shirley for her efficient
services as my Clerk during the year.

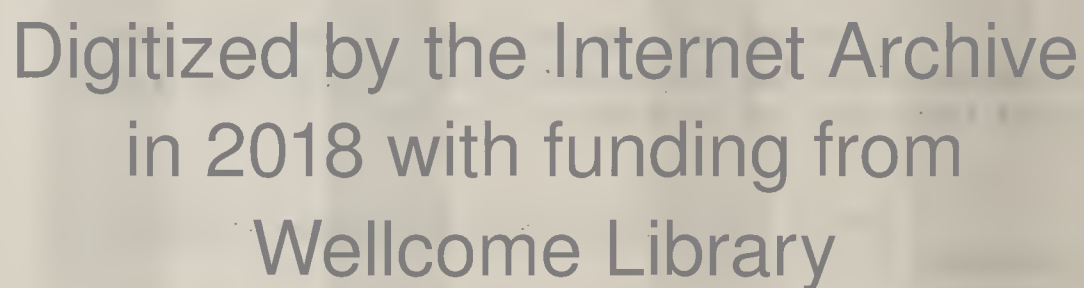
I would also like to thank you, Ladies and
Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration through-
out the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Neil J. Brown

Medical Officer of Health.



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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 6

A. Area - 1,078 acres.
 Rateable Value: 1st April, 1967 £143,233.
 Production of a penny rate: 1966/67 £526 (est)
 1967/68 £530 (est)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 3,430.
 Natural increase in population (births over deaths) 12.

LIVE BIRTHS

COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Shaftesbury Borough</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Total	16	33	)Rate per 1,000 resident popu- lation = 14.2.	17.7	17.7
Illegitimate	1	3			

STILL BIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil)Rate per 1,000 live & still- births = Nil	Nil	15.4
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DEATHS

Total	22	15)Rate per 1,000 resident popu- lation = 10.8.	8.4	11.7.
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DEATHS IN INFANTS

Under 1 year.	2	Nil)Infantile death		
Under 4 weeks	2	Nil)rate per 1,000	40.8	19.0
Under 1 week	2	Nil	)live births = 40.8.		

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	4	Nil	2	1
" " Other Cancer	5	3	10	10
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	8	4	7	10
" " Other Heart or Vascular				
" " disease	11	21	10	17
" " Influenza	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
" " Pneumonia	2	2	1	1
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	Nil	1	Nil	1
" " Suicide	Nil	Nil	1	1
" " Leukaemia & aleukaemia	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. NATURE OF THE DISTRICT

Shaftesbury is an ancient Borough with strong historical connections. It is a market town supplying the requirements of the farming community in the surrounding districts.

Its principal industries and trades include glove making, and the local central depots for the Southern Electricity Board and Post Office Engineers are stationed there. A Government Radio Station is also within its boundaries. A laundry and egg packing station are more recent acquisitions in the Borough. Plans are in hand for further industrial development.

The new industrial estate construction has been commenced, and three small factories have been constructed and occupied in the manufacture and assembly of radio and television parts and electric organs. A further factory is now completed and will be operating shortly on high tension wires. Further plans are in hand for the construction of more factories to be attracted from the Greater London area.

C. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT WHICH ARE NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE HOSPITAL SERVICE

The Westminster Memorial Hospital of the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board provides local hospital facilities, both in-patient and out-patient.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The local ambulance service is provided by the County Council.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved in every way, to be co-operative and efficient.

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER OPHTHALMIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculations, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

DOMESTIC HOME HELP SERVICE

The assistance provided by the domestic home help service is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people, that it is difficult to recall how these people managed before this service was instituted.

But for this service, on which increasing demands are being made, many old people would be unable to survive in their own homes.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgement must be made of the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Silver Thread Club and the Meals on Wheels Service provided by the W.R.V.S.

Twenty nine elderly people benefitted from this valuable service, compared with thirty two during the preceding year. Not only are the meals appreciated, but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by the helpers who take the meals around.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - Noel F. Pearson M.R.C.S.,
(Part time) L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is something less than one half day per week.

Dr. G. B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne District acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal voluntary basis.

Public Health Inspector - William Norman Teasdale,
(Part time) F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Certificate of R.S.H. as
Inspector of Meat and
Other Foods.

WATER SUPPLY

All properties in the Borough are served by a public water supply with the exception of one property having a satisfactory private supply. Eighteen properties (thirty seven persons) are, however, still served by standpipe supplies.

The public supply is provided by the West Wilts Water Board. Close co-operation has been maintained between Officers of your Council and those of the Board.

Regular sampling of the supply at source, by the Board, has been carried out. No samples were taken by your staff.

The supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Whilst your Council, the County Council, and the Ministry concerned have held differing views on the size of the scheme for sewerage treatment required to be provided at Holyrood Farm, for another year the Council has had no alternative but to continue to discharge the sewage from a whole town in a way no local authority would allow a private householder to discharge his own drainage.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There has been no change in the weekly curbside collection of refuse and disposal on to the Salisbury Road tip.

With housing and industrial expansion the quantity of refuse collected continues to increase. Arrangements are being made to extend the tipping area at the Salisbury Road tip by excavations, levelling and back fill. Nevertheless, with plans for more rapid expansion of the town, this problem is going to become more difficult and will require more drastic alteration and improvement.

ROADSIDE SANITATION

No serious public health nuisances have occurred in your Borough from unsatisfactory roadside sanitation. There is one unofficial lay-by on the A30 adjoining the refuse tip which enables it to have weekly attention.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

One part time Inspector (your Public Health Inspector) was appointed under this Act. One hundred and ninety six inspections were carried out during the year.

SHOPS ACT

The Borough Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of the Shops Act, 1950, within the Borough.

No. of inspections carried out	..	..	..	164
No. of defects found	..	..	..	12
No. of notices served	..	..	..	8
No. of notices complied with	..	..	..	8

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspection- tions</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	59	4
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	21	2
Total	40	80	6

No. of cases in which defects were:	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Want of cleanliness	1	1
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences	3	3
	4	4

No. of Outworkers (Wearing Apparel)	95
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THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was called for or taken during the year.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

No premises in the Borough are registered under this Act.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public swimming bath in the Borough provided by the Council.

The bacterial purity of the water has been good and the pH value has remained constant at 8.0. The filtration and circulation methods remain the same as in previous years, the turn over of the water being unsatisfactory at an Average of once per 24 hours. The sides of the bath are showing signs of serious leakage and considerable repairs will be required before it can be used during the summer of 1967. Seven samples taken by the County Health Department all proved satisfactory.

THE CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are no licensed caravan sites in the Borough.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was called for or taken during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the Council under the above Act are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee.

A high measure of control has been maintained. Three hundred and thirty six inspections were carried out, and two hundred and ninety eight treatments were given.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1963

No premises in the Borough are registered under this Act.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the Borough Council.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

The general conditions remain relatively satisfactory. During 1966 the improvements at St. James's School were completed.

The new Junior School to replace Holy Trinity and Cann C of E Schools is now under construction, and is expected to be completed and in use by the end of 1967, which will allow the somewhat inadequate existing canteen facilities to be dispensed with.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

No action under this Act was required to be taken to effect the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two sets of public conveniences in the Borough. At the Bleke Street recreation ground one for women only. At the Town Hall (part underground) provision is made for men and women. Washing facilities, cold water with soap and paper towels are now provided.

An additional convenience for both sexes continues to be urgently required at the Coppice Street car park.

HOUSING

No new houses were provided by the Council during the year, and therefore, there was little incentive for action to be taken in respect to sub-standard properties.

No action was taken under Section 13 of the Housing Act 1964 to ascertain which houses should be made the subject of compulsory improvement orders.

Towards the end of the year a start was made for the provision of Council houses in the new development area, but, unfortunately these will not include dwellings of a type

particularly suitable for the needs of old people for which there remains an ever increasing need.

Twenty four new houses were provided by private enterprise.

Total No. of houses in the district..	..	..	..	1,255
No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	..			302
No. of inspections made	..	..	..	501
No. of informal notices served	..	..	..	54
No. of informal notices complied with	..	..	..	42
No. of statutory notices served	..	..	..	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	..	..	..	Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	4
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses:

Demolition Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for:

Closure	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reconditioning	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Other Action	Pending

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year	Nil
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Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were brought to the notice of the Council during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses in the Borough are known to be let in lodgings.

Rehousing

Eighteen families were housed by the Council during the year, compared with seven during the preceding year.

Housing Applications

At the end of the year there were one hundred and two applications on the Council's housing waiting list (compared with one hundred and six a year ago) of which fifty eight were resident in the Borough and forty four resident outside the Borough.

Improvement Grants

No applications for 'standard' and only four for 'discretionary' grants were received during the year, compared with none and two respectively in the preceding year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council	7
No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration	Nil
No. of 'Distributors' subject to registration ..	6

Samples

Thirteen samples of milk from the Borough were taken and submitted for examination during the year by officers of the County Council. None by officers of the Borough Council.

Brucellosis

No samples were taken specifically for examination for Brucellosis. This examination is carried out as a routine measure by the County Staff, and any positive result notified to me. No such notifications were received during the year.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Details of food premises subject to the above, grouped in categories of trade carried on in them and including the following information for each category separately:

Trade	No. of Premises	No. com- plying to Reg. 16.	No. of Reg. 19 Premises	No. com- plying to Reg. 19.
Hotels	4	4	4	4
Cafes	3	3	3	3
Public Houses	9	9	9	9
Clubs	7	4	6	6
Church Halls	6	6	6	6
Canteens - Schools	7	7	7	7
Confectioners	5	2	2	2
Meat & Fish	6	6	6	6
Grocers	9	9	9	9
Mixed Stores	3	3	3	3
Boarding Schools	2	2	2	2
Food Factories	-	-	-	-
Others	9	7	7	7
	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>64</u>

No. of such premises inspected during the year	..	57
No. of inspections carried out	... ..	216

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:

Ice Cream ..	..	16
Sausages & Prepared Meats..	..	4
Fish & Chips ..	..	2

Whilst no infringements of the regulations have been reported, it is a matter of some concern that there is not sufficient staff employed to ensure a regular and routine inspection of all premises in the borough which come within the provisions of the regulations.

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test	Nil
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Food Shops and Other Premises

The total quantity of foodstuff condemned during the year was 140 lbs. of beef.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the Borough and no samples of liquid egg have been taken for examination.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is no slaughterhouse, now, in the Borough.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings) ..	2,703
Total No. of informal notices served ..	144
Total No. of informal notices complied with ..	135
Total No. of statutory notices served ..	3
Total No. of statutory notices complied with ..	3
No. of prosecutions. ..	Nil

In the field of public health inspection, less tends to be done each succeeding year due to increased pressure in all branches of the surveying side of the work, not the least being town planning and Building Regulations. Whilst it is known that no great public health nuisances exist on food premises, offices and shops, and in housing, routine inspection is almost non-existent, and when carried out, has to be more or less perfunctory because of the time involved. Neither can records be kept up to date, and with the proposed rapid expansion of the Borough, the difficulties are likely to be further accentuated and become more urgent of solution. One thing is certain that the existing staff will not be able to cope without further technical assistance.

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	
Puerperal pyrexia	1	
<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
New Cases Notified	Nil	Nil

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health

